

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action (hereinafter, "Office Action") mailed on December 17, 2004.

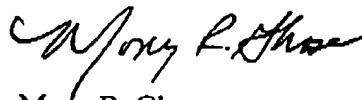
On page 2 of the Office Action, reference is made to certain figures in the specification. Despite a good faith effort, Applicant is unable to determine the precise nature of the requested change. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss the required amendment to the drawings in order to ensure compliance with the Examiner's request.

Claims 59 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112. Claim 59 is canceled. Claim 75 is amended to clarify that the cut away portion is defined by "ramped end portions" as recited in the previously amended specification, column 13, lines 50-55. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 75.

Claims 54, 55, 56, 57-59, 60, 61-66 and 79-87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 (e) and 35 U.S.C. Section 103 (a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,292,329 to Werner. These claims are now canceled.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-38, 41-53, 67-74 and 76-78. All claims non-allowed claims, other than amended claim 75, are canceled. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as currently amended or allowed are in a condition for allowance. Notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Monty R. Ghose
Reg. No. 38,159

Becton Dickinson and Company
1 Becton Drive
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880
201-847-6802
April 18, 2005

#89099